



# Riverside Youth Court



*Diversion and Prevention through Accountability and Education*

Hearings are held at  
Riverside Municipal Court  
4100 Main St.  
Courtroom #21 and #22

## **Riverside Youth Court**

Riverside Police Department  
10540 Magnolia #B  
Riverside, CA 92505

Phone: (951) 353-7683

Fax: (951) 353-7682

Email: [RPDYouthCourt@RiversideCa.gov](mailto:RPDYouthCourt@RiversideCa.gov)

| October 2008 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S            | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|              |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| 5            | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12           | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19           | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26           | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |

| November 2008 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S             | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|               |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |
| 2             | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9             | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16            | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23            | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30            |    |    |    |    |    |    |

| December 2008 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S             | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|               | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
| 7             | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14            | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21            | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28            | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |

## **Youth Court Dates for remainder of 2008:** *(Six-month period commitment)*

October 8, 2008  
October 22, 2008  
November 12, 2008  
November 26, 2008  
December 10, 2008

**Time:**  
5:30-8:30

**Applications Due: September 14, 2008**

## **Riverside Youth Court Training:** *(Mandatory)*

September 27, 2008  
Riverside Convention Center  
8:30 a.m.-3:00 pm.



*Diversion and Prevention through Accountability and Education*

## **Application for Youth Court Volunteer**

Riverside Youth Court has been developed as a part of the City of Riverside's Juvenile Justice System. *These are real cases*, where juveniles have admitted the misdemeanor offense, but have chosen to be judged by their peers in determining the consequences.

Youth Court is open to Riverside youth, ages 12-18. Youth Court participants will learn about a respondent's offense and will select a suitable disposition designed to hold the youth accountable for his/her actions and to encourage future compliance with the law.

As a youth court volunteer for the fall/winter session, you will be committing to participate in the program for a 6-month period. Youth Court is held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. A mandatory training for the fall/winter session will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Riverside Convention Center located at 3443 Orange Street, 92501. Volunteers will receive three hours of community service for each youth court session they attend and 6 hours of community service for the training.

The Riverside Youth Court depends on volunteers. You can participate as a juror, bailiff, court clerk and/or attorney. If you would like to be involved in this exciting program, please *submit your application no later than September 14, 2008*. We are certain you will find Youth Court an interesting and satisfying experience.

**Russ Leach**  
**Chief of Police**

.....  
Please print all application information clearly.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ T-Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteer Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

By signature, I give my permission for my son/daughter to participate as a youth court volunteer and agree that my son/daughter will be responsible for attending the court sessions assigned by youth court staff and notifying the youth court administrator if they are unable to attend a scheduled session no less than seven days from the date if that session (service not to exceed six (6) sessions within the six month (6) period of volunteer service. I also agree to allow my son/daughter to speak with the media and have his/her face shown in print media, television or videotape.

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

For more information please call the Youth Court Coordinator at (951) 353-7683 or email at [RPDYouthCourt@riversideca.gov](mailto:RPDYouthCourt@riversideca.gov). Visit the Youth Court Website at [www.riversideyouthcourt.com](http://www.riversideyouthcourt.com).

# *Riverside Youth Court Fact Sheet*

## ***What is the Riverside Youth Court?***

The Riverside Youth Court is a program created by the Riverside Youth Council in September 2004. It is an innovative approach to juvenile justice and acts as an early intervention for first time offenders of misdemeanor crimes. It is designed to give youth between the ages of 10 and 17, who have broken the law and admitted their guilt, a second chance. Those who are eligible for the program will have the case heard in a real courtroom with youth serving as prosecuting and defense attorneys, court clerks, bailiffs and jurors. An adult judge will preside, but the youth jury will determine the sentence.

The Riverside Youth Court is also designed to educate youth about the juvenile justice system. Through direct participation, youth court addresses the juvenile's responsibility for his/her behavior and holds the juvenile accountable to his/her community and peers. Involvement in youth court, either as a respondent or as a volunteer, increases his/her respect for the judicial process.

## ***How Does the Youth Court Program Work?***

Cases dealing with misdemeanor crimes that have been committed within the city limits are referred directly to the Riverside Youth Court from the Riverside Police Department, Riverside County Probation Department and the Riverside Unified and Alvord Unified School Districts. Once a juvenile is referred to youth court, the juvenile and his/her parent will meet with youth court staff to review the program requirements and sign all required paperwork. To be eligible for youth court, the juvenile must first admit guilt and his/her parent must consent in writing to his/her child's participation in the program.

The case is then scheduled for an adult judge trial or a peer jury trial. If the case is tried with the adult judge model a youth defense attorney will represent the juvenile. The prosecutor will also be a youth attorney; adult attorneys are available to mentor the youth attorneys prior to the trial. In this model, each youth attorney makes an opening statement, the juvenile testifies and is cross-examined, both attorneys recommend a disposition, and the jury considers the facts of the case. The jury deliberates until it reaches a consensus in determining a fair disposition for the juvenile respondent. The peer jury model does not use youth attorneys. Instead, the members of the jury are presented with the facts of the case in advance and prepare relevant questions. Each juror may ask questions directly to the juvenile respondent. The deliberation process is the same as it is in the adult judge model.

## ***What Kind of Dispositions does Youth Court Impose?***

The primary function of the Riverside Youth Court is to determine a fair and restorative sentence for the juvenile respondent. Dispositions will include mandatory future jury duty, and one or more of the following: community service, letters of apology, essays, educational workshops, counseling, restitution, drug testing, jail tour, curfew restrictions, behavior contract, and other creative dispositions.

## ***What Happens when the Juvenile Offender Completes his/her Disposition?***

When the disposition is completed, the respondent's case will be closed. No criminal charges will be filed in the traditional juvenile justice system and the juvenile will have no record.

## ***How Often Does the Riverside Youth Court Hold Sessions?***

The Riverside Youth Court convenes twice a month.

## ***What Other Benefits will Youth Court Volunteers Receive?***

All youth court volunteers will receive training in the juvenile justice system, the concept of restorative justice, and the deliberation process. Each volunteer will receive 6 hours of community service for attending the training and an additional 3 hours of community service each time he/she participates in a court session.

## ***What Local Agencies are involved with the Riverside Youth Court?***

The Riverside Youth Court partnership includes the Riverside Youth Council, Office of the Mayor, Riverside Police Department, (the administrating agency), Riverside County Juvenile Court, Riverside County Probation Department, Riverside County District Attorney's Office, Riverside County Public Defender's Office, Riverside Unified School District, Alvord Unified School District, Riverside County Bar Association, and the Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce.